

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ASMARA 00178 041613Z

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IGA-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-05 /074 W

-----050528Z 023938 /14

R 041130Z MAR 77

FM AMCONSUL ASMARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4403

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

INFO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON

COMNAVTELCOM WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN

COMIDEASTFOR

NAVCOMMUNIT ASMARA

NAVCOMMSTA NEA MAKRI

CNO WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASMARA 0178

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, ET US

SUBJECT: REACTION TO USG SUSPENSION OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE

1. BOTH ERITREANS AND ETHIOPIANS IN ASMARA HAVE HEARD OF THE USG DECISION TO SUSPEND MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA VIA INTERNATIONAL SHORTWAVE BROADCASTS, EITHER FROM BBC OR VOA. ALTHOUGH THERE HAS BEEN NO MENTION OF THIS ACTION BY ETHIOPIAN MEDIA, AND NO CORRESPONDING REACTION BY THE EPMG, THE WORD OF THE SUSPENSION OF ARMS AID WAS RAPIDLY DISSEMINATED IN ASMARA. REACTION FROM THE ERITREANS WAS PREDICTABLE; THEY ARE EXTREMELY PLEASED AT THE GESTURE, AND, WHEN COMBINED WITH THE SUDANESE COMMITMENT TO THE ERITREAN CAUSE, THEY ARE ALL THE MORE CONVINCED THAT THE SUCCESS  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ASMARA 00178 041613Z

OF THE ERITREAN CAUSE IS ASSURED.

2. WHAT IS NOT GRASPED BY THE ERITREANS AT THIS POINT IS THAT THE DECISION ONLY TERMINATES GRANT MAP AS OF THE END OF THE CURRENT FY, AND WILL NOT EFFECT CASH OR CREDIT FMS TRANSACTIONS. WHEN THIS BECOMES GENERAL KNOWLEDGE WE ANTICIPATE THAT THE ERITREANS' PRESENT EUPHORIA WILL RAPIDLY DISSIPATE. ON MARCH 3, VOICE OF

THE ERITREAN REVOLUTION FROM OMDURMAN RADIO REPORTED THAT DESPITE SECRETARY VANCE'S ANNOUNCEMENT OF A CUTOFF OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA, SOME 17 U.S. HELICOPTERS RECENTLY ARRIVED IN MASSAWA. WHILE THIS REPORT IS SPECIOUS, IT IS INDICATIVE OF THE CLOSE ATTENTION THE INSURGENTS GIVE IN TRYING TO MONITOR U.S. MILITARY ASSISTANCE.

3. PERHAPS THE MOST SURPRISING REACTION TO THE USG ACTION WAS VOLUNTEERED BY SEVERAL SECOND DIVISION OFFICERS WHO APPLAUDED THE CUTOFF AND NOTED THAT IT WAS LONG OVERDUE. AN ASSESSMENT OF THIS REACTION INDICATES THAT IT STEMS NOT FROM TREASON OR EXTREME DISAFFECTION, BUT FROM A SENSE OF OUTRAGED PROFESSIONALISM. THESE PARTICULAR OFFICERS EITHER TRAINED IN THE U.S. OR HAVE HAD A CLOSE ASSOCIATION WITH AMERICAN OFFICERS, AND THEY ARE INDIGNANT AT THE TREATMENT METED OUT TO THE USG IN RECENT PAST IN REPAYMENT FOR LONG-STANDING U.S. MILITARY ASSISTANCE. WHILE THESE FEW OUTSPOKEN OFFICERS MAY REPRESENT A CERTAIN SEGMENT OF THE ETHIOPIAN OFFICER CORPS, IT IS CLEAR THAT THEY ARE NOT IN A POSITION EITHER BY NUMBERS OR INFLUENCE TO REVERSE CURRENT EPMG POLICY.  
SLUTZ

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PROVINCE, ARMED FORCES, PUBLIC ATTITUDES, MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS, LIBERATION FRONTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 04-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977ASMARA00178  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770076-0387  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** ASMARA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19770394/aaaadeyg.tel  
**Line Count:** 83  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 22f237be-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 07-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3212762  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** REACTION TO USG SUSPENSION OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE  
**TAGS:** MASS, ET, US  
**To:** STATE ADDIS ABABA  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/22f237be-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009